

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 July 2003 (17.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/058483 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F 15/16

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US03/00618

(22) International Filing Date: 8 January 2003 (08.01.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/346,881 8 January 2002 (08.01.2002) US
60/403,249 12 August 2002 (12.08.2002) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SEVEN NETWORKS, INC. [US/US]; 1st Floor, 901 Marshall Street, Redwood City, CA 94063 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FIATAL, Trevor,

A. [US/US]; 4550 Meyer Park Circle, Fremont, CA 94536 (US). BOYNTON, Lee, R. [US/US]; 500 Milburn Court, Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (US). BURKE, Scott, M. [US/US]; 800 High School Way #227, Mountain View, CA 94041 (US). GUSTAFSON, Brian, D. [US/US]; 520 Franklin Street, Montara, CA 94037 (US). RAJ, Binu [IN/US]; 38762 Litchfield Circle, Fremont, CA 94536 (US). ALVARADO, William [US/US]; 735 Live Oak Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). BENITEZ, Juan [US/US]; 4319 Renaissance Drive #102, San Jose, CA 95134 (US). DUNCAN, Fred, J. [US/US]; 390 Arguello Boulevard #6, San Francisco, CA 94118 (US).

(74) Agent: FORD, Stephen, S.; Marger Johnson & McColom, P.C., 1030 SW Morrison Street, Portland, OR 97205 (US).

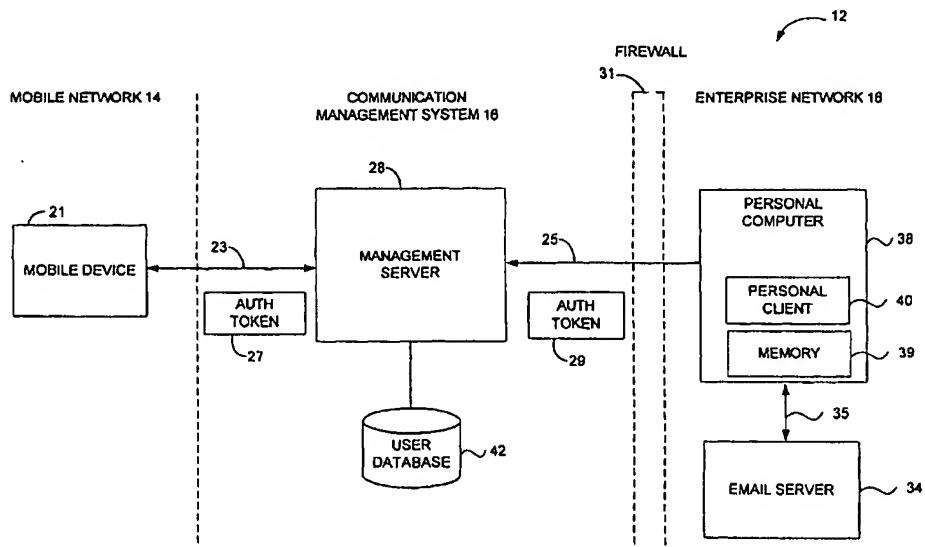
(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONNECTION ARCHITECTURE FOR A MOBILE NETWORK



WO 03/058483 A1



(57) Abstract: A real-time communication architecture establishes a continuous connection (25) between an enterprise network (18) and a communication management system (16). The connection (25) is continuously held open allowing mobile devices (21) real-time access to enterprise email systems (34). The real-time communication architecture can support an entire enterprise email system or individual email users (64). The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention which proceeds with reference to the accompanying drawings.



MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI,

CONNECTION ARCHITECTURE FOR A MOBILE NETWORK

5

BACKGROUND

Mobile email messaging systems typically use a store and forward architecture. Electronic Mail (email) redirector software runs either on an enterprise email server or on a desktop computer. The redirector software monitors a user 10 mailbox. When a new email message is received in the mailbox, the redirector makes a copy of the email message and wraps the copy in an encryption envelope and encapsulates the copy for delivery to the mobile device. The redirector may optionally encrypt and/or digitally sign the encapsulated email message.

The encrypted encapsulated email message is sent out over the Internet and 15 routed to a mobile device associated with the user mailbox. If encrypted, the email message is decrypted by the mobile device prior to being stored on the mobile device and then displayed and stored on the mobile device. This same process is repeated for every new email that is received in the user's mailbox.

Thus, with this architecture two versions of the same mailbox exist. The 20 primary mailbox on the email server or desktop PC, and the replicated mailbox on the mobile device. Consistency between the primary and the replicated mailbox may be maintained to some degree using synchronization messages passing back and forth between the redirector and the mobile device. For example, an email message deleted from the mobile device may result in a synchronization message to the 25 desktop redirector, which instructs it to also delete that message from the primary mailbox. In some versions of this architecture, no effort at all is made to ensure

consistency of mailbox state between the primary and replicated instances. This store and forward architecture is cumbersome, does not operate in real-time, and requires sending a large number of email messages over the Internet. The present invention addresses this and other problems associated with the prior art.

5

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A real-time communication architecture establishes a continuous connection between an enterprise network and a communication management system. The connection is continuously held open allowing mobile devices real-time access to 10 enterprise data sources such as email systems. The real-time communication architecture can support an entire enterprise email system or individual email users.

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention which proceeds with reference to the accompanying 15 drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a mobile communication architecture according to one embodiment of the invention.

20 FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an enterprise version of the communication architecture.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing how transactions are transferred in the communication architectures shown in FIGs. 1 and 2.

25 FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing how local network files are viewed and selected by a mobile device.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing how data is stored in a mobile device.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing how the mobile device is synchronized.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

5 For simplicity, data, databases, files, and data transactions may be referred to generally as Electronic mail (email), email transactions, mailboxes, etc. However, it should be understood that any type of email data or email transaction described below can be similarly performed for calendars, contacts, tasks, notes, electronic documents, files or any other type of data that needs to be transferred between a local network and
10 a mobile device.

FIG.1 shows one embodiment of a real-time communication architecture 12 that includes a mobile network 14, an enterprise network 18, and a communication management system 16 that manages communications between the mobile network 14 and the enterprise network 18.

15 The enterprise network 18 in one instance is a private network that contains a firewall 31. The firewall 31 can be a set of related programs, located at a network gateway server that protects the resources of the enterprise network 18 from users from other networks. The term 'firewall' also implies the security policy that is used with the firewall programs.

20 The mobile network 14 includes mobile devices 21 that communicate over the Internet through a wireless or landline mobile network 14. Since mobile networks 14 are well known, they are not described in further detail.

The enterprise network 18 can be any business network, individual user network, or local computer system that maintains local email or other personal data
25 for one or more users. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, the enterprise network 18

includes an email server 34 that is accessed by multiple Personal Computers (PCs) 38.

In one example, the email server 34 may be a Microsoft® Exchange® server and the

PCs 38 may access email on the email server 34 through a Microsoft® Outlook®

software application. The email server 34 can store email mailboxes, contact lists,

5 calendars, tasks, notes, or any other type of local data or electronic document.

The PC 38 is connected to the email server 34 over a Local Area Network

(LAN) 35. The PC 38 includes memory 39 for storing local files that may include

personal email data as well as any other types of electronic documents. Personal

client software 40 is executed by a processor in the PC 38. The personal client 40

10 exchanges transactions with the mobile device 21 for browsing email, calendars, and

contact information as well as accessing local files.

A communication management system 16 includes at least one management

server 28 that manages the transactions between the mobile device 21 and the

enterprise network 18. A user database 42 includes configuration information for

15 different users. For example, the user database 42 may include login data for user's in

enterprise network 18.

Enterprise Version

FIG. 2 shows an enterprise version of the communication architecture 12. The

20 enterprise network 18 includes an enterprise server 34 that connects through LAN

connection 35 to multiple PCs 38. The enterprise server 34 also includes an

enterprise client 41 that can communicate directly with the management server 28.

The communication management system 16 in FIG. 2 includes the

management server 28, as well as one or more Smart Device Servers (SDS) 30, and

25 one or more Personal Client Servers (PCS) 32. The SDS 30 handles communications

with particular smart mobile devices 24. The PCS 32 manages communications with personal clients 40.

The mobile devices 21 in FIG. 2 are shown in more specificity and include cell phones 20 having WAP interfaces that communicate with management server 28 5 through a WAP gateway 26. Other mobile devices 21 may include PCs, PDAs, Internet kiosks 22, or any other smart mobile device 24 that operates as communication endpoints.

Mobile connection 23 in FIG. 1 and mobile connections 45, 46 and 44 in FIG. 2 are any connections that allow the mobile devices 21 to communicate over the 10 Internet. For example, the connections 23, 44, 45 and 46 may be through landlines, cellular channels, 802.11 wireless channels, satellite channels, etc.

Continuous Real-time Connectivity

Referring specifically to FIG. 1, the personal client 40 automatically 15 establishes a continuous connection 25 between the PC 38 and management server 28. The personal client 40 initiates an outbound connection 25 which is then authenticated by the management server 28. For example, the client 40 presents an authentication token 29 to the management server 28. The management sever 28 then attempts to 20 match the information in the authentication token 28 with information in user database 42.

If the authentication token 29 is authenticated, the connections 25 or 48 are established through the firewall 31 to achieve access to the management server 28 which is outside the private enterprise network 18. The management server 28 then 25 sends the personal client 40 connection authorization and any other needed information. For example, the management server 28 may send back connection

sharing information, email notification filters, and other mobile communication configuration parameters associated with a particular user.

The management server 28 and the personal client 40 then go into a quiescent mode until a transaction, such as a data query, is transferred between the mobile 5 device 21 and the personal client 40. If for any reason the connection 25 is disconnected, the personal client 40 automatically establishes another connection 25 with management server 28.

It is important to note that the connection 25 is continuously maintained even when no connection 23 is currently exists between mobile device 21 and management 10 server 28. In one embodiment, the connection 25 is a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) connection. However, any connection protocol can be used that allows continuous connectivity between the enterprise network 18 and communication management system 16.

In an alternative embodiment, the connection 25 may be established through a 15 proxy server (not shown) in enterprise network 18. For example, messages sent by the personal client 40 may be encrypted by the proxy server with a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL).

After the connection 25 is established by the personal client 40, a mobile connection 23 can be established at any time between the mobile device 21 and the 20 management server 28. After the mobile connection 23 is established, the mobile device 21 can then access email and other information in the email server 34 or memory 39 through personal client 40. Thus, after connection 25 is established, the personal client 40 effectively operates as an email server for the mobile device 21.

Referring to FIG. 2, in a manner similar to the personal client 40, an enterprise 25 client 41 establishes a continuous connection 48 with the management server 48

similar to the connection 25 established between the personal client 40 and management server 28. The connection 48 is used for relaying transactions between multiple mobile devices 21 and multiple email users on enterprise server 34 at the same time.

5 In the version of the communication architecture shown in FIG. 2, the personal client 40 may establish connection 25 with the management server 28 through PCS 32 and certain mobile devices 24 may establish mobile connections 44 through the SDS 30.

10 **Mobile Device Log-In**

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the management server 28 authenticates mobile connections 23, 44, 45, and 46 initiated by the mobile devices 21. When a user signs up for a mobile account, a copy of the user's username and password for the enterprise network 18 is stored in the user database 42. After the mobile device 21 powers on, 15 the user is required to login to the communication management system 16 by entering another user name and password. If the mobile device 21 accesses email through the enterprise server 34, as opposed to through the PC 38, then an enterprise identifier (e.g., name) may also be required.

The mobile device 21 sends an authentication token 27 either directly to the 20 management server 28 or to the SDS 30 which forwards the authorization token 27 to the management server 28. The management server 28 verifies information in the authorization token 27 with information in the user database 42. If the authentication token 27 is verified, the management server 28 sends an authorization acknowledgement directly to the mobile device 21 or through the SDS 30.

Once the mobile device 21 has successfully logged in, the management server 28 unlocks the user's enterprise user name and password. This allows the mobile device 21 to access email and other local files in the enterprise network 18 either through connection 25 or connection 48.

5 The management server 28 also conducts rendering and view functions needed for presenting email and other data to the different mobile devices 21. For example, the management server 28 reformats local data retrieved from the enterprise network 18 according to the particular mobile device 21 requesting the information. The management server 28 also operates as a transactional routing engine for routing 10 transactions between the mobile devices 21 and the enterprise network 18.

Stateless Non-Replicated Connectivity

Referring to FIG. 3, once the mobile device 21 has successfully logged in, stateless connectivity exists between the mobile device 21 and the personal client 40 over connections 23 and 25. For example, the mobile device 21 may send a 15 transaction request 62 to the personal client 40 to view emails in the users mailbox 60.

The transaction request 62 is sent from the mobile device 21 to the management server 28 over mobile connection 23. The management server 28 locates the personal client 40 associated with request 62 and forwards the request 62 20 over the appropriate connection 25. The personal client 40 accesses data in mailbox 60 according to the transaction request 62. For example, if the transaction request 62 requests viewing the user's latest emails, the personal client 40 generates an email list 64 containing the emails received in mailbox 60. The personal client 40 then sends the email list 64 back to the mobile device 21 through connection 25.

If the mobile device 21 has limited memory or viewing capability, only a latest portion of the emails in mailbox 60 may be included in email list 64. Alternatively, the personal client 40 may send all of the emails in mailbox 60 to the management server 28. The management server 28 then doles out portions of the email list 64 to 5 the mobile device 21 according to the type of electronic platform used by the mobile device 21.

These transactions allow the mobile device 21 to view information in mailbox 60 in real time without having to maintain a second version of the emails in mailbox 60. Once the connection 23 is terminated, the email list 64 received by the mobile 10 device 21 may be deleted. If emails in mailbox 60 need to be viewed again, the mobile device 21 sends a new transaction request 62 to the personal client 40.

If the items requested in transaction 62 are too numerous or too large for viewing by the mobile device 21, the personal client 40 may send only enough information in list 64 to identify the items. For example, the personal client 40 may 15 glean out from an email the email sender information, when the email was sent, and the subject line. The personal client 40 may only send out this gleaned information for the latest emails received in mailbox 60.

The mobile device 21 receives the gleaned partial list 64 and can then select one or more of the items in list 64 for viewing. Depending on the type of data 20 requested for viewing, another transaction request 62 may be sent from mobile device 21 to personal client 40 to view the selected email in its entirety. The personal client 40 then sends any remaining contents of that selected email to the mobile device 21. Alternatively, if the gleaned partial email list 64 does not contain the email that the mobile device user wishes to view, the mobile device 21 can send another transaction

request 62 to the personal client 40 to view a second portion of the emails contained in mailbox 60.

After the transaction between the mobile device 21 and the management server 28 is completed, no emails from mailbox 60, or any other files from the PC 38 5 need to remain on the mobile device 21. That is unless the mobile device 21 saves a copy of the data. Thus, the servers 28, 30 and 32 and the mobile devices 21 shown in FIGS. 1-2 do not have to maintain a second version of the email data in mailbox 60.

This stateless connectivity does not require the large number of transactions that are typically required in store and forward architectures and also eliminates 10 having to copy emails and send the copies to the mobile device each time an email is received at the user's mailbox.

Local Data File Access

FIG. 4 shows how the mobile device 21 accesses local files contained on the 15 PC 38 and attaches those local files to email messages. The personal client 40 operating on PC 38 is initially configured to point to a root directory 80. The root directory 80 may include multiple subfolders 82 that contain files 84 and 86. Other files 88 and 90 may be located at the top level of the root directory 80 or located in other subfolders.

20 Some mobile devices 21 may not have the capability to actually open and read the files in root directory 80 or there may be too much data in certain files for the mobile device 21 to store. In these situations, the mobile device 21 can still view, navigate and select folders and files located under the root directory 80.

An email message 70 is opened on the mobile device 21. An Insert File option 25 may then be selected in the email application running on the mobile device 21.

Selecting the Insert File option sends a view files transaction 76 from the mobile device 21 to the management server 28.

The management server 28 sends the transaction 76 over the appropriate connection 25 to personal client 40. The personal client 40 receives the transaction 76 5 and determines the mobile device 21 has requested a list of files in root directory 80.

The personal client 40 generates a response containing a file list 78 identifying the subfolders 82 and files 84-90 in root directory 80. The response message containing file list 78 is then sent back to the mobile device 21 over connection 25.

All or part of the file list 78 may be sent to mobile device 21. For example, 10 the management server 28 may determine the mobile device 21 has insufficient memory to view the entire file list 78. The management server 28 could also determine it would take too much time to send the entire file list 78 to the mobile device 21. In these cases, the management server 28 may only send a portion of the file list 78 to the mobile device 21.

15 The mobile device 21 displays the file list 78 received from the management server 28 and selects any of the listed files or subfolders. A subfolder in the file list 78 may be selected that contains files not included in the file list 78. This causes the mobile device 21 to send out another view file transaction 76 to the management server 28 requesting a list of the files contained in the selected subfolder. The 20 management server 28, or personal client 40, then sends back another file list 78 containing the files in the selected subfolder.

If one or more files are selected from the file list 78, an associated file identifier 72 is inserted into the email message 70. In one example, selecting files is equivalent to a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) forms submission where an 25 item is selected from a website. When an email Send command is selected on the

mobile device 21, an email transaction 74 is sent to the management server 28 that includes email message 70 and file identifier 72.

The management server 28 sends the email transaction 74 through connection 25 to the personal client 40. In the enterprise network shown in FIG. 2, the email 5 transaction 74 may travel from the SDS 30 to the management server 28 and then through the PCS 32 and connection 25 to the personal client 40.

The personal client 40 unwraps the email transaction 74 and extracts the email message 70 containing the file identifier 72. The personal client 40 reformats the email message 70 into an email message 92 and then attaches the file in root directory 10 80 corresponding to file identifier 72. The email message 92 with the attached file is then sent by the personal client 40 to the email server 34. A copy of the email message 92 may also be copied to the Sent Items folder in the user's mailbox.

Storing Queries

15 Referring to FIG. 5, some mobile devices 21 referred to as smart mobile devices may include software that operates a mobile client 98 that receives and transmits data. The mobile device 21 can store another version of the local data in email server 34. The stored data can include contact information stored in memory section 100, emails stored in memory section 102 and calendar information stored in 20 memory section 104. The mobile device 21 can view, generate emails, and generally manipulate the data in memory section 100-104 off-line.

The mobile client 98 can maintain a latest version of queried data in memory section 100-104 using the stateless connectivity architecture described above. For example, when a View Contacts operation is initiated on the mobile device 21, the 25 mobile client 98 sends a view contacts transaction 106 to the personal client 40. The

mobile device 21 may have requested the contacts list 114 for the entire enterprise network. If the contacts list 114 is too large to send to the mobile device 21, the personal client 40 may only send back a first portion 108 of the contacts list. For example, a list of contacts for the first few letters of the alphabet.

5 If the contact the user is looking for is not within the first contacts list portion 108, the user can send a second View Contacts transaction 110 to the personal client 40. The second transaction 110 may identify a specific letter of the alphabet for the personal client 40 to query. Alternatively, the transaction 110 may direct the personal client 40 to send back a next portion of the enterprise contact list 114 immediately

10 following contacts list portion 108. The personal client 40 sends back a second portion 112 of contact list 114 pursuant to the transactions 110. If the contact the user is looking for is in the second contact list portion 112, no further queries are sent from the mobile device 21.

15 The mobile client 98 can store the last received contact list portion 112 in memory 100. According to the amount of memory available in the mobile device 21, the mobile client 98 may save the last few contact list portions 112 and 108 in memory 100. Thus, when the mobile device 21 goes off-line, a user is still able to view the latest information received from personal client 40. The mobile client 98 can also save the most recent email queries in memory space 102 and the most recent

20 calendar queries in memory space 104.

Synchronization

Referring to FIG. 6, the mobile device 21 may store a second version 122 of the user's local data. It may be necessary from time to time to synchronize the second

25 version 122 on the mobile device 21 with the local version 136 on the email server 34.

In one embodiment, the mobile device periodically sends out synchronization requests 134 to the personal client 40. The personal client 40 generates a response 133 pursuant to the synchronization request 134 that contains the latest emails, or other local user data. The response 133 is sent back to the mobile device 21 and is used for 5 updating data 122.

Triggers can be used to notify the mobile device 21 when new emails arrive on the email server 34. Filters 138 are configured in the personal client 40 that identify the types of emails or other types of events that cause the mobile device 21 to send a trigger 132.

10 For example, the filters 138 may tell the personal client 40 to send a trigger 132 each time a new email arrives in the user's mailbox. The personal client 40 monitors the user's mailbox in email server 34 for new emails. If a new email is detected, the personal client 40 sends a trigger 132 to the mobile device 21 through the management server 28. The trigger 132 may be a message with no payload that 15 simply tells the mobile device 21 that something new has happened in the user's mailbox. The trigger 132 causes the mobile device 21 to establish the mobile connection 23 with the management server 28 and then send a synchronization request transaction 134 to the personal client 40.

20 In one implementation, Short Message Service (SMS) messages 126 are used to trigger the mobile device 21 into establishing the mobile connection 23 and send the synchronization request transaction 134. The management server 28 is coupled through a notification gateway 130 to a Short Message Service Controller (SMSC) 128 operated by a mobile communication service carrier. In other implementations, 25 some other notification protocol, such as a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) Push is used to trigger the mobile device 21.

The personal client 40 generates the trigger message 132 whenever an event associated with the user's mailbox 136 corresponds with an event identified in filters 138. The trigger message 132 causes the management server 28 to send a message through the notification gateway 130 to the SMSC 128. The SMSC 128 accordingly 5 sends the SMS message 126 to the mobile device 24.

The mobile device 21 monitors for particular SMS messages having some particular computer readable content. When SMS message 126 is received having that particular content, the mobile device 21 initiates a mobile connection with management server 28. The mobile device 21 may extract the SMS message 126 10 from a user queue before a user has a chance to see it.

The mobile device 21 initiates an authentication process with the management server 28. After successful authentication, the synchronization request 134 is sent from the mobile device 21 to the management server 28. The management server 28 transfers the request 134 to the personal client 40 over the previously established 15 connection 25. The personal client 40 upon receiving the synchronization request 134 sends back a response 133 that includes a list of the latest emails in the user's mailbox 136.

High Priority Email

20 Still referring to FIG. 6, the connection architecture shown above can also be used for providing notification of high priority emails. The personal client 40 may be configured to monitor the email server 34 for particular types of email messages. For example, the filters 138 may cause the personal client 40 to look for any emails sent from a particular sender email address. For example, email sent from the user's 25 supervisor.

Whenever an email arrives in the user's mailbox 136 sent from the supervisor's email address, the personal client 40 sends a stripped down version of that email through the management server 28 to the SMSC 128. For example, the stripped down version may only identify the sender, time, date, and subject line for 5 the email message. The SMSC 128 then sends a SMS high priority message 124 to the mobile device 24.

The stripped down high priority SMS message 124 may be slightly different than the SMS message 126 used for triggering mobile device synchronization. For example, the SMS message 126 may not contain any email content, while the priority 10 message 124 includes some portion of the actual email content received in mailbox 136. The high priority message 124 can be sent to any SMS capable mobile device.

Power Management

The mobile device 21 can periodically initiate synchronization according to an 15 amount of charge remaining in a battery 123. For example, when battery 123 has a relatively large amount of charge remaining, the mobile device 21 may synchronize more frequently than when the battery 123 has a relatively small amount of charge remaining. Systems for determining an amount of charge remaining in battery are well known and are therefore not described in further detail.

20 Different charge gradient levels can be used for varying how often the mobile device 21 synchronizes with the personal client 40. For example, the mobile device 21 may synchronize every 5 minutes when the battery 123 has 75% or more charge remaining and may synchronize every 10 minutes when the battery 123 is between 75% and 50% charged. When the battery 123 is between 50% and 25% charged, the

mobile device 21 may only synchronize with personal client 40 every 30 minutes.

Other charge/synchronization rates can also be used.

To further conserve power, synchronization can be varied according to the day of the week. For example, the mobile device 21 may synchronize less often on 5 weekends than on weekdays.

Summary

The system described above can use dedicated processor systems, micro 10 controllers, programmable logic devices, or microprocessors that perform some or all of the operations. Some of the operations described above may be implemented in software and other operations may be implemented in hardware.

For the sake of convenience, the operations are described as various interconnected functional blocks or distinct software modules. This is not necessary, 15 however, and there may be cases where these functional blocks or modules are equivalently aggregated into a single logic device, program or operation with unclear boundaries. In any event, the functional blocks and software modules or features of the flexible interface can be implemented by themselves, or in combination with other operations in either hardware or software.

Having described and illustrated the principles of the invention in a preferred 20 embodiment thereof, it should be apparent that the invention may be modified in arrangement and detail without departing from such principles. We claim all modifications and variation coming within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method for transferring data between a mobile device and a local network, comprising:

initiating a primary connection from the local network to a management system;

5 establishing a mobile connection from the mobile device to the management system;

sending transactions between the mobile device and the local network over the primary connection and the mobile connection;

10 maintaining the primary connection between the local network and the management system after the mobile connection is terminated; and

establishing a new mobile connection between the mobile device and the management system and sending transactions between the mobile device and the local network over the new mobile connection and the previously established primary

15 connection.

2. A method according to claim 1 including using a TCP/IP connection for the primary connection.

20 3. A method according to claim 1 including automatically establishing the primary connection whenever a personal client in the local network is in operation and maintaining the primary connection independently of any mobile connections established or terminated by the mobile device.

4. A method according to claim 1 including:

sending a file query, email query, or other data query from the mobile device to the local network over the mobile connection and the primary connection;

generating a file list or response at the local network according to the query;

5 sending the file list or response back to the mobile device over the primary connection and the mobile connection; and

displaying the file list or response on the mobile device.

5. A method according to claim 4 including:

10 selecting a file name, email, or other data item from the file list or response displayed on the mobile device;

attaching a file or data identifier to an email message identifying the selected file or data item;

sending the email message from the mobile device to the local network; and

15 attaching a file or other data item associated with the file or data identifier to the email and sending out the email over an IP network.

6. A method according to claim 1 including:

storing a version of data in the local network on the mobile device;

20 sending a synchronization request from the mobile device to the local network over the mobile connection and the primary connection requesting a latest version of the data; and

sending a latest version of the data back to the mobile device over the primary connection and the mobile connection according to the synchronization request.

7. A method according to claim 6 including:

terminating the mobile connection between the mobile device and the management system;

monitoring the local network for new data associated with a mobile device

5 user;

sending a synchronization trigger over the primary connection from the local network to the management system when the new data is detected;

forwarding the synchronization trigger from the management system to the mobile device; and

10 automatically reestablishing the mobile connection between the mobile device and the management system when the synchronization trigger is received by the mobile device; and sending a synchronization request from the mobile device over the reestablished mobile connection and the primary connection to the local network.

15 8. A method according to claim 7 including using a Short Message Service (SMS) for forwarding the synchronization trigger to the mobile device.

9. A method according to claim 7 including using a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) Push or other equivalent notification protocol for forwarding the 20 synchronization trigger to the mobile device.

10. A method according to claim 1 including:

storing filters in the local network that identify specific messages;

sending a message identifier to the management system when the local 25 network receives one of the identified messages;

using a Short Message Service or other notification protocol to relay the message identifier to the mobile device.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein at least one of the filters identifies
5 messages with high priority.

12. A method according to claim 1 including:

sending a first query transaction from the mobile device to the local network
for a file list;

10 sending a first partial file list to the mobile device;
storing the first partial file list in the mobile device;
sending a second query transaction from the mobile device to the local
network requesting a different portion of the file list;
sending a second partial file list to the mobile device; and
15 replacing the first partial file list in the mobile device with the second partial
file list.

13. A method according to claim 1 including:

identifying an amount of charge in a mobile device battery; and
20 automatically synchronizing the mobile device with the local network at
different time intervals according to the amount of charge in the battery.

14. A computer system, comprising:

a computer operating a local client that conducts transactions with a mobile
25 device through a management server, the local client establishing a connection with

the management server for conducting the transactions and maintaining the connection independently of connectivity status between the mobile device and the management server.

5 15. A computer system according to claim 14 wherein the personal client receives a view transaction from the mobile device over the connection, the personal client accessing a user directory and sending a list of data items contained in the user directory back over the connection to the mobile device responsive to the view transaction.

10

16. A computer system according to claim 14 wherein the personal client receives a send transaction from the mobile device over the connection, the personal client accessing the local network and creating a new message according to the send transaction.

15

17. A computer system according to claim 14 wherein the personal client receives an update transaction from the mobile device over the connection, the personal client accessing a user directory and modifying the identified data item according to the update transaction.

20

18. A computer system according to claim 14 wherein the personal client sends a first list to the mobile device identifying a first portion of the user directory to the mobile device and sends a second list to the mobile device identifying a second portion of the user directory when another view transaction is received from the mobile device.

19. A computer system according to claim 18 wherein the user directory contains, user document files, user emails, subdirectories, or other data items.

5 20. A computer system according to claim 15 wherein the personal client receives an email transaction from the mobile device containing an email message and identifying at least one of the data items from the list previously sent to the mobile device, the personal client attaching the identified data item from the user directory to the email message and transmitting the email message to an email address contained
10 in the email message.

21. The computer system according to claim 14 wherein the personal client contains filters that identify events, the personal client monitoring one or more user directories for the identified events and sending a trigger to the mobile device when
15 the events are detected in the user directories, the trigger causing the mobile device to establish a mobile connection with the management server and initiate a synchronization transaction with the personal client.

22. The computer system according to claim 14 including an email server coupled
20 to the computer through a network connection, the email server containing user directories accessed by the local client according to the transactions received from the mobile device.

23. A computer system according to claim 22 wherein the local client operates on a desktop computer, the email server, a separate server, or an embedded computing node.

5 24. A management system, comprising:
a management server that communicates over a primary connection initiated from a local client in an enterprise network and communicates over a mobile connection initiated from a mobile device over a mobile network, the management server routing transactions between the mobile device and the local client over the
10 mobile and primary connections and maintaining the primary connection independently of the connectivity status of the mobile connection with the mobile device.

25. A management system according to claim 24 including a user database
15 containing user configuration information for a user in the enterprise network, the management server receiving an authentication token or other identifier from the local client and establishing the primary connection when the authentication token or other identifier is verified with the user configuration information.

20 26. A management system according to claim 25 wherein the management server receives an authentication token or other identifier from the mobile device and establishes the mobile connection with the mobile device when the authentication token or other identifier is verified with the user configuration information.

27. A management system according to claim 24 wherein the management server receives a data list from the local client and sends out portions of the data list to the mobile device according to type of platform used by the mobile device and according to query requests received from the mobile device.

5

28. A management system according to claim 24 wherein the management server receives a trigger from the local client and uses a Short Message Service to notify the mobile device of the trigger.

10 29. A management system according to claim 24 including receiving a high priority message from the local client and sending the priority message to the mobile device using a Short Message Service (SMS) or other notification protocol.

30. A mobile device, comprising:

15 a processor configured to exchange file access transactions with a local client through a mobile network and an Internet Protocol (IP) connection, the IP connection remaining open when the processor is not actively connected to the mobile network.

31. A mobile device according to claim 30 including memory for storing data received from the local client, the processor sending a synchronization transaction to the local client that enables the local client to send updates to the stored data.

20 32. A mobile device according to claim 31 wherein the processor automatically connects to the mobile network and sends the synchronization transaction when a 25 Short Message Service message is received.

33. A mobile device according to claim 31 including a battery, the processor sending out the synchronization transaction at different time intervals according to an amount of charge remaining in the battery.

5

34. A mobile device according to claim 30 wherein the processor receives a first file list from the local client identifying a portion of local files, the processor sending a transaction causing the local client to second a second file list identifying another portion of the local files.

10

35. A mobile device according to claim 34 wherein the processor automatically stores the first file list in memory and then replaces the first file list in memory with the second file list.

15

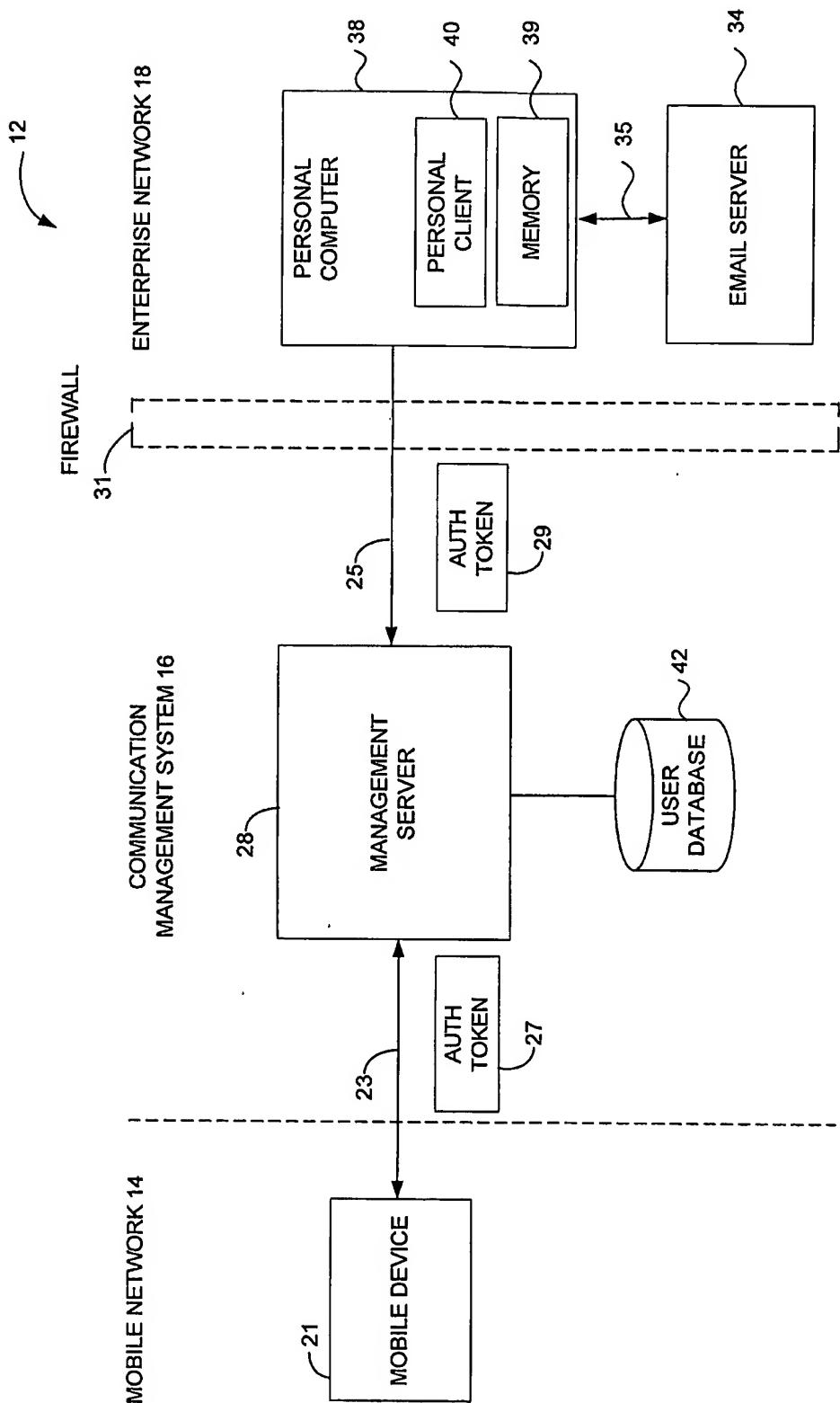


FIGURE 1

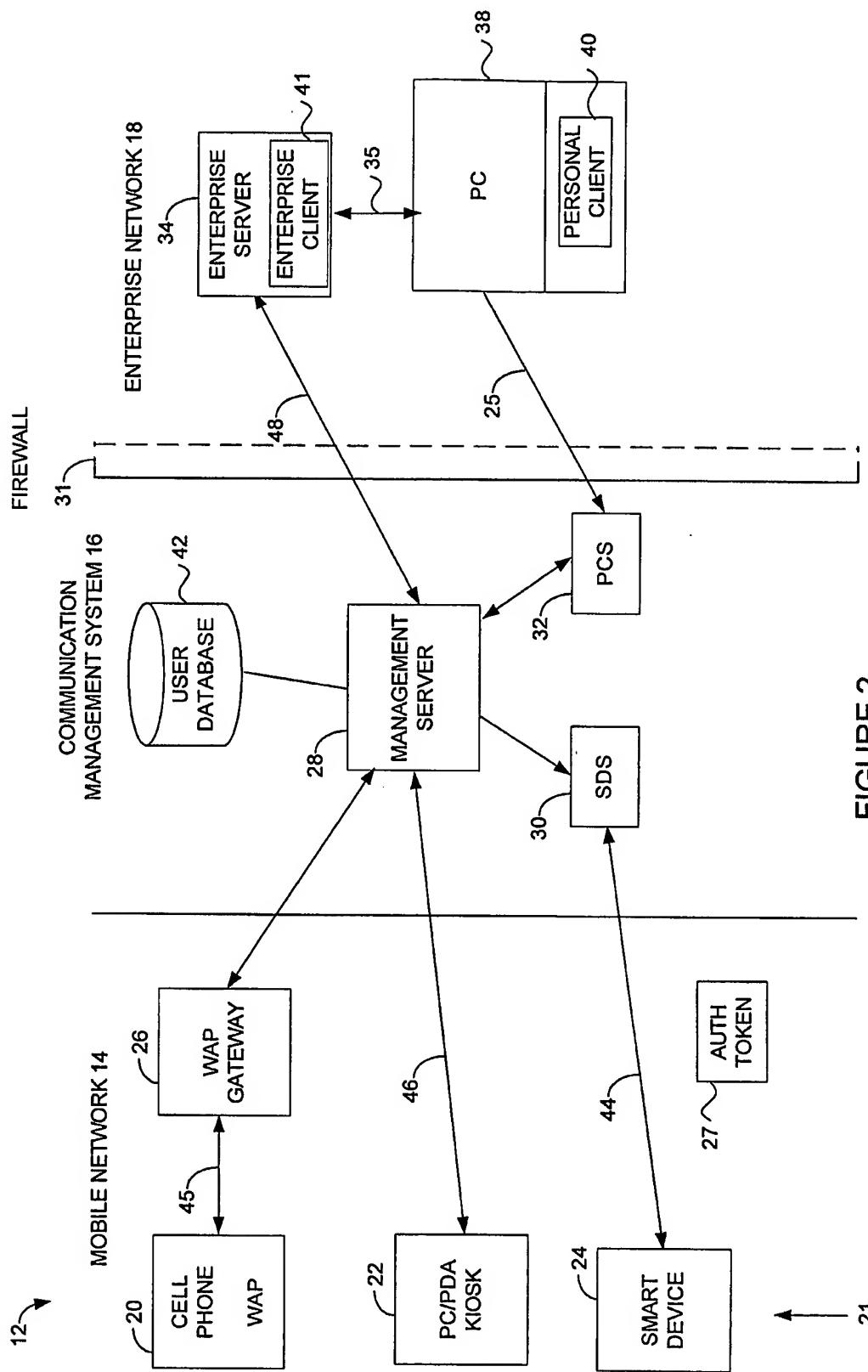


FIGURE 2

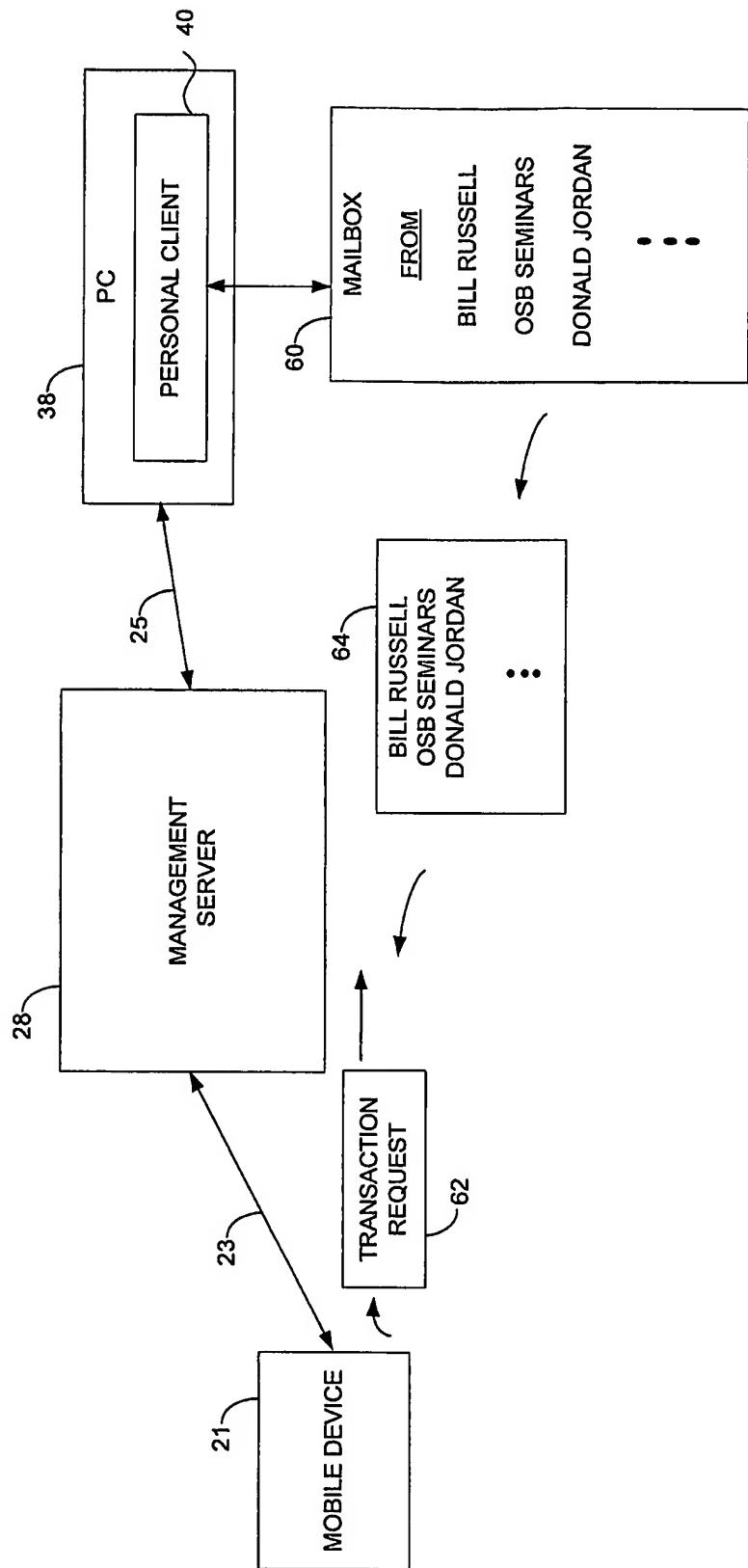


FIGURE 3

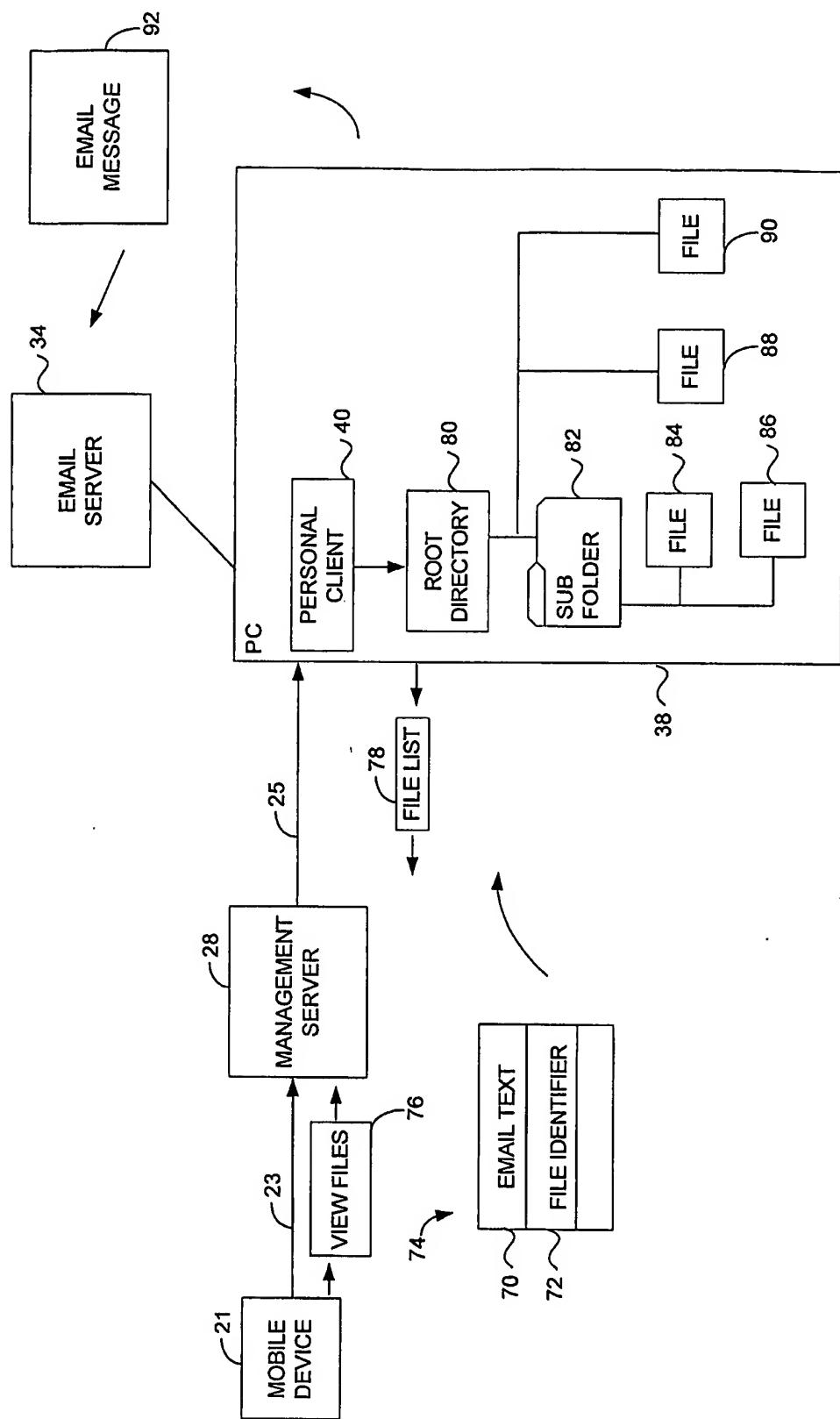


FIGURE 4

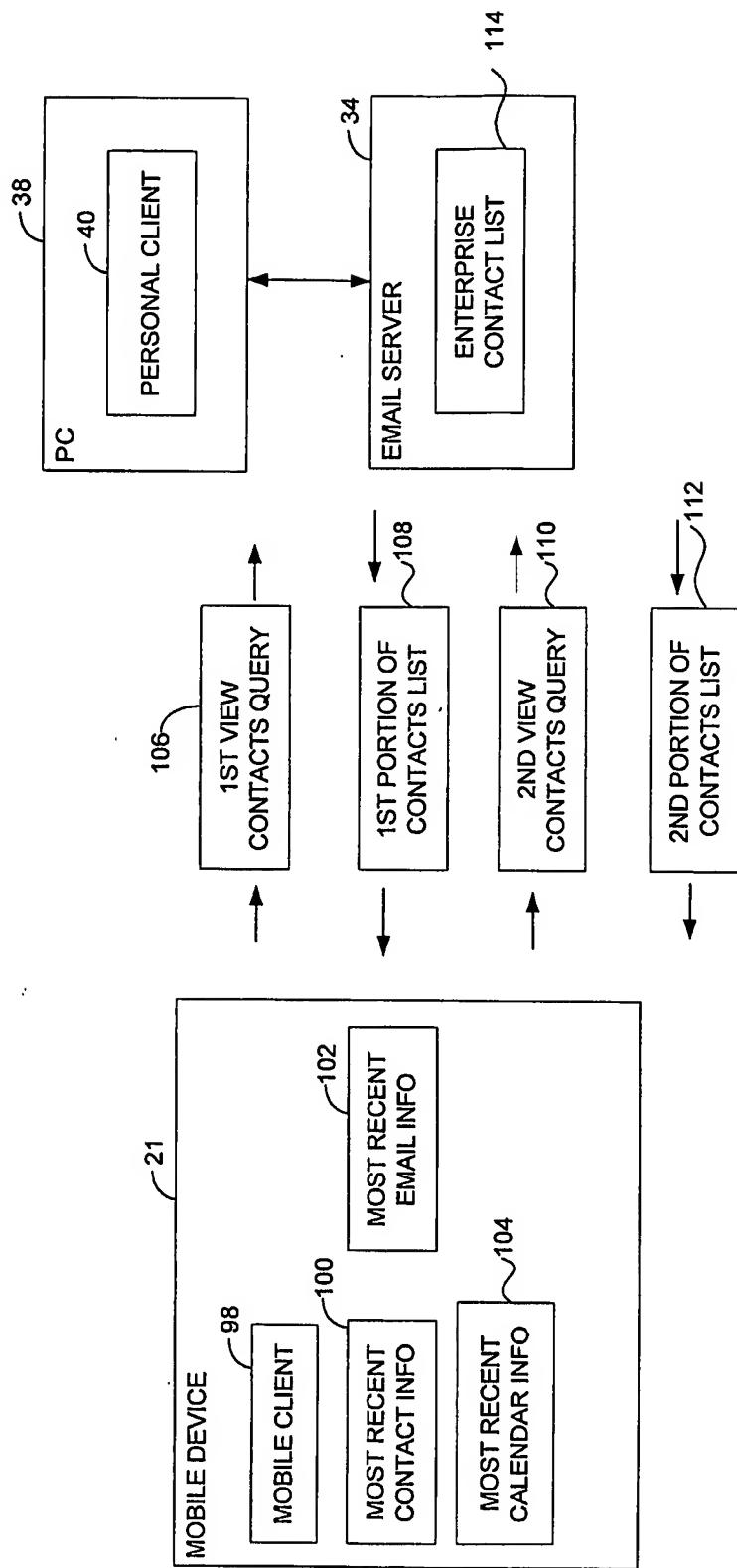


FIGURE 5

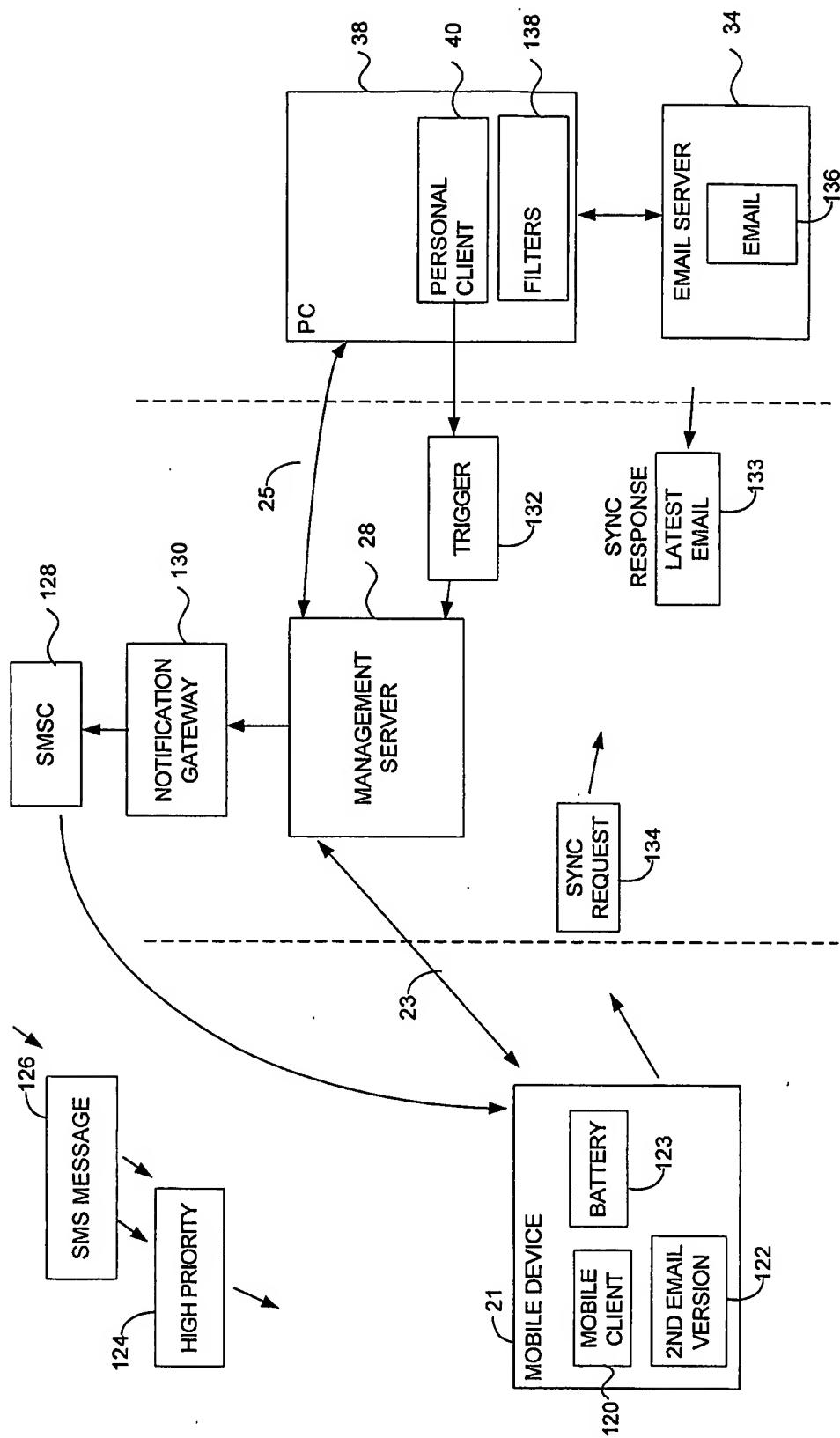


FIGURE 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/00618

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/16
US CL : 709/219

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 709/246,247;713/201;455/423

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Dogpile(NPL) search terms: (mobile or wireless) + network+ archit\$ +database update +push technology

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2001/0032254 A1 (HAWKINS) 18 October 2001 (18.10.2001), entire document	1-6,12,14-20,22-27,30,31,34,35
---		-----
Y		7-11,13,21,28,29,32,33
Y	US 5,974,327 A (AGRAWAL et al) 26 October 1999 (26.10.1999), abstract	13,33
Y,P	US 2002/0059457 A1 (BALLARD et al) 16 May 2002 (16.05.2002), entire document	7-11,21,28,29,32
A,P	US 6,421,782 B1 (FOX et al) 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002), entire document	1-35
A,P	US 2002/01461129 A1 (KAPLAN) 10 October 2002 (10.10.2002), entire document	1-35
A	US 6,317,594 B1 (GROSSMAN et al) 13 November 2001 (13.11.2001), entire document	1-35
A,P	US 2002/0068559 A1 (SHARMA et al) 06 June 2002 (06.06.2002), entire document	1-35

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 March 2003 (19.03.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

04 APR 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Fay
Baum, Ronald

James R. Matthews

Telephone No. 703-305-4276